



# Hitohira

## 2

IDUMI KIRIHARA

4

Hitohira

IDUMI  
KIRIHARA



2

CAN A SINGLE PETAL EVER GROW TO BE SOMETHING MORE? MUGI'S DRAMA CLUB HOLDS ITS SUMMER ACTING CAMP IN A SEASIDE PARADISE, BUT THE THEATER CAMP TURNS INTO MORE OF A BOOT CAMP! NONO SHOWS THE GROUP THE SCRIPT SHE HAS WRITTEN FOR THE BIG FESTIVAL AND EXPECTS MUGI TO PLAY THE LEAD. SWEET, BUT SHY, MUGI PANICS! WILL SHE BLOSSOM LIKE THE PLAY'S HEADLINE, OR SIMPLY WITHER?

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# *Hitohira 2*

IDUMI KIRIHARA

# Contents

<i>Theater (Boot) Camp</i> ❀ Chapter 9	8
<i>Like Sand in the Sea</i> ❀ Chapter 10	27
<i>You Can Do It!</i> ❀ Chapter 11	51
<i>Rehearsal Time!</i> ❀ Chapter 12	75
<i>A Crucial Experience</i> ❀ Chapter 13	99
<i>Two People In Storage</i> ❀ Chapter 14	123
<i>You Are Not Alone</i> Chapter 15	147
<i>Extra!</i>	171



WHOOSH

It's so pretty!

AND SUMMER  
MEANS THE  
BEACH!

SUMMER'S  
HERE!

Ahh!

THREE DAYS  
AND TWO  
NIGHTS.

Woo hoo!  
Let's go  
swimmin'!

TOSS

WHOOSH



ALL OF US IN  
THE THEATER  
GROUP ARE  
HERE FOR  
OUR FABULOUS  
CAMP!

*Theater (Boot) Camp Chapter 9*

ALAS, WE'RE  
DRAGGED  
BACK TO  
REALITY...

A-E-I-  
O-U!

Eleven  
benevolent  
elephants!

OK!  
From  
the  
top!

SERIOUS

うはーん  
WHOOSEHHH

THIS IS  
GOING TO BE  
ROUGH...

The festival  
is coming up  
soon, and we  
don't have a  
moment to  
waste.

Got it?  
Moving  
on!

What  
are you  
saying?

Um...  
Nono... isn't  
practicing  
right after  
we got here  
a bit...

well...

To  
titillate  
your  
tastebuds  
...

...we've  
got these  
tasty  
tidbits!



It's nothing special, you know.

Wow Nono, you're good at cooking too?



A CAMP BY THE BEACH...

The fire's ready.

Oh, well then, Takashi's just washed the rice, so could you boil it?

MAKING CURRY TOGETHER ...

It's SUPPOSED TO BE FUN, BUT...



...WHY AM I CRYING?!

HUH?!

Sure, Takashi-  
What?!





Yeah...  
these  
are real  
tears.

No  
onions  
around  
here...



What do  
you all  
think?

Before  
vacation  
began.  
I think I  
gave the  
script to all  
of you.

I WAS EVEN  
LOOKING  
FORWARD  
TO THIS A  
LITTLE...

...EACH OF  
US ONLY  
NEEDED TO  
BRING FOOD,  
HIGHLIGHTERS,  
AND PERSONAL  
ITEMS.

THINKING  
BACK,  
THE CAMP  
HANDOUT  
SAID...

Theater Camp

Dates: August 6 - August 15  
Meet at 7:30 AM at the train and  
Please bring:



It's  
good.  
isn't it?

Yeah.

I think it's  
interesting.



IT'S A STORY  
ABOUT A HIGH  
SCHOOL GIRL.

THE TITLE IS  
"HITOKIRA."

1 episode  
HITOKIRA



Nono's  
a really  
good  
writer...



SHE WAKES  
UP TO THREE  
MYSTERIOUS  
SPRITES  
BEFORE HER.

HER ENTIRE  
LIFE HAS BEEN  
ROUGH, AND IN  
DESPERATION SHE  
TRIES, BUT FAILS,  
TO END IT.



THE  
SPRITES  
FADE  
AWAY.

WHEN SHE  
REALIZES,  
"I'M  
HAPPY..."



THE SPRITES  
SCOLD  
HER...

...THEN  
GIVE HER  
HOPE.

THE THREE  
HELP HER  
ATTAIN THE  
LOVE SHE'D  
GIVEN UP ON.





HER HAPPINESS WAS  
ALWAYS THERE.

SHE JUST  
HAD TO  
REALIZE IT.

Hm?

Oh,  
sorry.

Mugi!  
Are you  
listening?!



Shut up,  
Risaki.

Not too  
quick  
on the  
uptake!

Huh?!

DUHHHHH...



B-But,  
hold  
on...

Why  
me?!

ハッ  
WHAT  
THE-?!



The  
lead  
role...

...will be  
played  
by you.



in fact...

I created a role for each of us here.

But...



I wrote the lead role specifically for you.



Now wait just a second!

Hmm... Seems there aren't many lines for Momo's character...



The casting was set even before I started it.

I'll be the Third Sprite.



That's it.

Kai will play the boy whom the girl has a crush on.

Takashi and Risaki...  
...will be the First and Second Sprites.

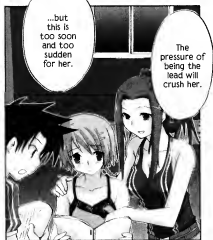
CONFUSED

泣- WHINE











Just know  
when it's  
time to  
back off.

I know  
you've  
got  
everything  
figured  
out.

So I'll  
support  
you.



Hey,  
now!

I'll never  
back off.



KA-  
CHAK

Geez, what  
are those  
two doing?



Even if  
she *can't*  
do it,  
she *will*.

She  
must.



Don't tell him.  
I'm a little  
lonely.

Even if  
he asked  
me, I still  
wouldn't.

Ouch



Only  
here.

We  
couldn't go  
any further  
without  
you!

So, how  
far did  
you get?



Wha-?!

If you're  
gonna do  
that, wait  
until we've  
all gone  
to bed!

Well...  
I asked her for  
a romantic  
walk on the  
beach, but she  
rejected me!

HA HA  
あはは

SLAM  
1/A-



STERN

Risaki,  
not  
enough  
energy!

Stop!

Do your  
part  
again!

SLAM



Fine.

All right,  
let's start  
from here  
then.

OK!





We go to  
bed at  
11:30!  
You  
know the  
schedule!

And why  
do you  
think  
that is?  
Look at  
the time.

Can't  
you see  
every-  
one's  
tired?



So  
HARD...

I  
see

I worked hard  
to create the  
lead especially  
for you.

Don't tell  
me you're  
embarrassed!



Why...

You're  
doing fine.  
Just believe in  
yourself!

You have  
a good  
voice.  
Mugi.

PAT  
[3]

...AM  
I EVEN  
HERE?



How  
many  
times do  
I have to  
tell you?

Oh, and  
Mugi, you  
aren't  
projecting  
enough!

OUCH  
All?  
?

I'm  
sorry  
...



That's  
why we're  
practicing!  
So you  
will have  
confidence.



No matter  
how much I  
practice...  
I won't have  
the confidence  
to project  
my voice on  
stage...

A good  
voice...

...makes no  
difference  
if no one  
can hear it.



Try  
harder  
then!



But, I  
already  
am.

It might be  
tough...  
...but  
give it  
your all.

TAKING  
COVER



You're so  
good at  
everything  
...

...except  
understanding  
my feelings.

MUMBLE



I'm...

...good at everything?



What...

...did you just say?



Mugi, what makes you think you can say that, no matter how much you know about me?

PWIP 74

I know enough.

Nono...



You can do anything easily...

You can write plays, and you're smart.

You have the power to set up and run a club.



...so you  
have all the  
confidence  
you need.

Compared  
to you,  
I'm just...

SILENCE

SLAM



I've had  
enough.

Quit  
acting.  
I don't care  
anymore.

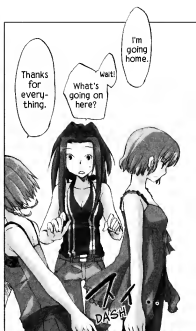
Thinking like  
that is why  
you don't  
want to  
do this and  
why you'll  
never be  
able to do  
anything.



Go  
home  
if you  
want.

Keep on  
being little  
Miss Mugi  
"I-can't-do-  
anything"  
Asai!

You're  
right.











Where'd  
she  
go?

Too dark  
to see...



Mugi!

WHOOOSH

WHOOOSH



WHOOSSH

SNIFFLE

PAP

PAP

Mugi...



Mugi!

SNIFFLE

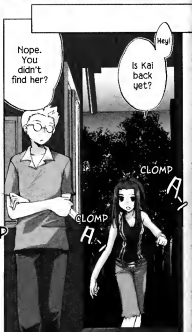


Mugi!

WHOOSHHHH



*Like Sand in the Sea Chapter 10*





You  
can't  
just go  
around  
hitting  
people!

Are  
you  
crazy!

Right  
smack in  
the face!

We're both  
girls, so no  
problem  
with a little  
catfight,  
right?!

いきた!  
EN-GARDE!

OH MY GOD!

CRASH

KICK

No more  
talk-

Ah!

KICK

Can't  
you just  
talk it  
over?

You need  
to do  
something  
about  
your short  
temper!

She  
pissed  
me off!

AHH...

FOOT SWEEP

Nono,  
too?!

This is  
getting  
out of  
hand!

You!

CRASH







You gotta be careful...

SLOG

SLOG

SLOG

Mugi?

Sorry.

SHUFFLE

I WANTED TO TRY MY BEST.



I DON'T HAVE ANY SPECIAL SKILL...

I CAN'T DO ANYTHING.



YOU OK?

I HATE THIS.

I ALWAYS RUN AWAY.



I can't go back.

I CAN'T CHANGE WHAT I AM.

I'm not...

I'm not going back.

BUT IT'S NOT THAT EASY.





...I'll just stay here, too.

Well, if you don't wanna go back...

How can I...

... EVER FACE HER AGAIN?

Keep on being little Miss Mugi! "I-can't-do-anything" Asai!

I COULDN'T TALK BACK TO HER.



Besides, if I go back without you, the only thing that awaits me is a death sentence from my sis.

There's no way I'm going to leave you out here all alone.



No, please.

It's not your problem, Kai.



Um...

Don't worry. Let's go back together after you feel better.



The group's only fun for me because you're in it too. Because we're both members, it's my problem.

Death sentence? Yeah... it's possible...











THE NEXT MORNING.











How long do you plan on being mad at me?

...I'm gonna make you.



SISH  
しっし

If you don't settle down...

That was a waste.

If you can't see that, then *you* should be the one going home!



...I liked your ideas! That's why I'm here!

Do you even remember why you started this club?!

Even though you're twisted and hard to deal with...

What?!

SLAM





I'm going  
back to  
the room.  
We're meeting  
at 10. so...

...be  
on  
time.



What  
you need  
to focus  
on is...

...whether  
you're going  
to quit or  
keep on  
trying.



THE REASON  
I STARTED  
THIS GROUP  
WAS TO...



What  
is it?

Takashii.  
I have  
something  
to ask  
you...



FOR THAT...

...VERY  
SIMPLE  
REASON.

...ENJOY  
TIME WITH MY  
FRIENDS.

TIME THAT  
WE WOULD  
REMEMBER  
FOREVER.



A VERY  
IMPORTANT  
REASON.





WHOOOOSH



What are you really talking about?

Sand-castles

WHOOOOSH

The water makes the sand stick even harder together.

The best thing to do is to build it again with wet sand.

WHOOSH



WHHHOOSH

WHHHOOSH





Takashi and Mugi have run off somewhere.

I don't really feel like doing anything now.

Washing the dishes will be uncomfortable if Nono is in the room...

だる  
WORN OUT



So WARM...

Mugi's HAND...

TH-THUMP



Uh... Why the heck am I talking to myself?

Yeah! That's right!

No! No! No! I wasn't fantasizing about anything!

I was just thinking about Nono's hand!

How badly has nothing to do with all







Yes,  
THAT  
WAS  
ME...



*You Can Do It!* Chapter 11





All right!  
Thanks!



Can we  
see it?  
*Pretty*  
please?

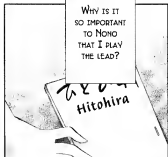
THAT WAS THE OLD ME.  
I'M NOT THE GIRL I WAS...



Let's  
hurry  
up and  
copy it!



Whoa,  
this is  
really  
incredible!







SHOULD  
I QUIT?



I CAN  
STILL  
QUIT.

WHOOSH

WHOOSH



IT'LL BE  
PAINFUL  
IF I DO.



...I could  
give it  
a shot.

I thought  
if I just  
had a small  
role...



Me,  
too.



...  
BECAUSE  
I WAS  
FORCED  
TO.



I JOINED  
THE  
GROUP...



IN THE  
FIRST  
PLACE...



That's  
it.

That's  
what  
she  
meant!

That  
time...



You  
know  
...

...we're  
very  
similar.

I used  
to think  
I wasn't  
cut out  
for this,  
also.



TA-DUM!



THAT'S  
RIGHT...



You...

... won't  
regret joining  
theater.  
I have a  
feeling you'll  
look back one  
day and be  
glad that you  
signed on.



You know,  
when you're  
always  
studying,  
you're always  
alive



You're so  
good at  
everything

...

...except  
understanding  
my feelings.

I...

... HAVE  
BEEN SO  
SELFISH.





Then,  
you have  
to step  
up and  
talk to  
him.

Got it?  
All I can do  
is set up an  
opportunity  
for you to  
get close  
to him.



OK then,  
I'll make him  
pay attention  
to you.

GRIP  
ヤフ.



I'm such a  
hypocrite.



So  
stupid.

CRUMPLE









If you  
*believe*  
you can  
change...

...you  
can do  
it.



But,  
um...

I don't  
have enough  
confidence to  
play the lead  
role yet, though.



Which  
is it?

Uh...

No!  
Ah, no!  
The lead  
role?!

So you  
want it  
then?

Well...



Mugi!

Y-

Yes?!

TENSE!!



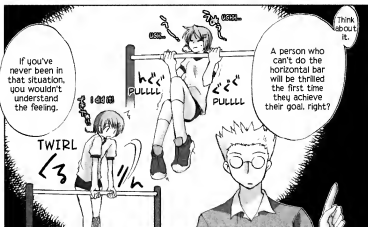


Confidence, maybe.

Like what?



There's probably something else that she wants to show her *through* theater.



If you've never been in that situation, you wouldn't understand the feeling.

TWIRL

PULLLL

PULLLL

A person who can't do the horizontal bar will be thrilled the first time they achieve their goal, right?

Think about it.



Enough psycho-babble!

POW

GRRR

Well, I just thought that...  
...she'd appreciate it more by figuring it out for herself. If she was the-



If you understand everything so well, why don't you tell her then?!

Mono simply doesn't have that kind of personality.

So why doesn't Mono just come out and tell her why she picked her?



Quiet!  
Can't you  
see we're  
rehearsing  
in here?!

That's not  
true!  
I've been  
looking out  
for her!

You  
made  
her cry!

Who cares  
about your  
stupid  
logic!?  
Besides,  
you've  
been the  
worst of  
all!

TREMBLE  
3/3

TREMBLE 3/3



Tardy!

How's it  
going?

?!



YOU!  
ビシッ

How long  
have they  
been there?

DA-  
DUM

Uh...  
Hey,  
Nono.



We need  
to start  
where  
we left  
off.

Hurry up  
and get  
in here.











I believe  
in you.

Don't  
give up.

What  
was  
that?

OK...

SLIDE

SLIDE

And...

...thank  
you,  
Mugi.

くす...  
GIGGLE





That's what I was told.



Huh? Nono passed out?

Hmm... Just one looks a bit lonely.

Takashi, let's set these up in a row.

Probably.

Probably?



Well... That's... Hmm...

Summer's all about adventures like this.



I was just thinking that our sandcastle is becoming stronger already.

What's so funny, Risaki?



Umm...

?

?

Hey, you two! It'd be a shame if all we did this summer was rehearse and not have fun. You know, like swimming at the pool or whatever...





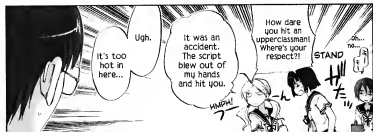


Rehearsal Time! Chapter 12



シ-カ  
SIZZLE  
シ-カ  
SIZZLE







Could you quit yelling? You're fogging up my glasses.

And way too humid, too.



We must be doing something right, huh?

You were ...

...just like them last year.



Stop, I'm over-heating!

Shut up, you vertically-challenged four-eyes!

Lemme help you get hotter under the collar!

GRAB

This year's freshmen are so full of energy!



GLARE

We'll start from where we left off.

Yes, ma'am!

OK everybody, it's time!

Break's over! Let's get ready!

Did you hear that?

We're starting again.



I'm selecting the music, so leave me alone.

PUSH

AN

YANK





CHEESE!

すたっ

So,  
can I go  
ahead and  
take some  
pictures?

You're letting  
me hone my  
photography  
skills here,  
too.

Don't  
worry  
about it.

What's  
the  
story  
you're  
going  
to  
tell?

Sorry  
for the  
trouble,  
Kayo...

Asking  
you to  
help us  
like this.

Of  
course.

We've been  
friends for  
three years  
now.

What?  
Have you  
noticed  
changes  
in her?

Besides  
...

As Mug's  
friend,  
I'm happy to  
see her grow  
into her own.

The look in  
her eyes is  
completely  
different.







Kai!  
Shut  
up!

Uh...no!  
Nothing  
at all!  
You got  
it all  
wrong!

Did  
something  
happen  
between you  
and Mugi?

Like...



Oww!  
Sis, that  
hurts!

おはーん  
SMACK

We're in the  
middle of  
rehearsal!  
No chit-  
chatting!

SMACK

おはーん

That slipper  
can really  
fly.

wow...



Sorry,  
Kayo.

Some of  
our club  
members  
don't know  
how to  
behave  
themselves.

Why am I your punching bag every time you're in a bad mood?!

Everything's  
annoying  
when it's  
hot.

SWEAT

## SWEAT

If you recall, we agreed not to take any breaks.

So,  
you two,  
get back  
to your  
positions.

Just looking  
at these  
maps of  
seismicity

Excellent.

I'm getting pretty used to this kind of thing, so don't sweat it.

**PANIT**

**PANT**

PANT  
15

ENT

Isn't this  
a good  
time to  
take a  
rest?

Hey...  
We've  
been  
rehearsing  
nonstop  
since we  
started.

No,  
it's not.

Yes,  
na'am.

**SWEAT**

## SWEAT

## SWEAT

FWID





MUGI!  
GOOD LUCK!

All right,  
your part  
again from  
the top!

OK,  
Mugi??

Y-

Yes!

*You  
don't  
have  
to do  
that...*

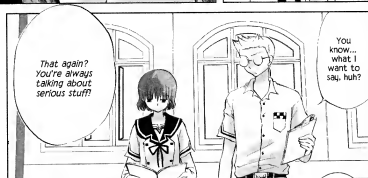
So...





What?

Nono?



*That again?  
You're always  
talking about  
serious stuff!*

You  
know...  
what I  
want to  
say, huh?



I know.  
You like  
me.

*That's why  
you end up  
thinking that  
life isn't fun,  
you know!*



No,  
it's not  
that....

Oh,  
really?

Do the best  
you can  
with what  
you've got.  
right?



It's also  
important  
to think of  
the future.



And...

...I want  
to live in  
that *now*.

Takashi,  
don't you  
understand?

Now...  
*this*  
moment...  
only exists  
right now.  
right at this  
moment.





WHAT?!

I'm sorry.  
Takashi was  
sexually  
harassing  
me.

Huh?



Future?  
I don't  
know the  
meaning  
of that  
word.

Nono...



What are we  
supposed  
to do if  
one of the  
characters  
is off chatting?  
It's your line!

Hey,  
Nono!

ON THAT  
DAY, I  
DECIDED.

THIS IS  
THE RIGHT  
PATH  
FOR ME.

TAP  
TAP  
TAP



Don't  
listen  
to her!

What  
kind of  
guy  
are  
you?

And quit  
giving  
me that  
strange  
look!



THIS IS MY  
ANSWER.

BECAUSE...

I WON'T  
QUIT.



Just a  
little  
bit...

PEEK

How  
long  
are you  
going to  
stay like  
this?

There  
it is!  
There  
it is!

He's in  
that  
room.

Is that  
Mugi?

THAT  
VOICE  
...

I want  
to  
change!

Yet...

So, you're  
satisfied  
with  
yourself?

TREMBLE



I FEEL  
SOMETHING  
PULLING ON  
MY HEART.

!!  
PRESSURE



WHAT  
IS IT?

WHAT  
COULD  
IT BE?



...  
SOMETHING'S  
DIFFERENT.



DID  
SOMETHING  
HAPPEN TO  
HER OVER  
THE SUMMER?

I KNEW  
SHE HAD  
A GOOD  
VOICE,  
BUT...



DASH  
1P  
1P

Hmph!

That'll  
be a  
hundred  
sit-ups  
and ten  
laps for  
her!

DASH  
1P  
1P

AT THIS  
RATE,  
I'll...



CRASH

Whoa!

Where  
the  
hell is  
she-?!

Ahh!

Chitose!

Ouch...





...calm  
down...



President  
Mirei!  
I'm so  
sorry!

Chitose,  
you  
really  
need  
to...



I FELT  
LIKE I WAS  
LOSING  
MY...

I'll  
rehearse  
as if my life  
depended  
on it!

I humbly request  
continuance of  
your enlightened  
guidance!



I'm  
begging  
you for  
mercy!

I ONLY  
HAVE A  
SMALL  
PART...

...BUT I  
GOTTA  
GIVE IT  
MY ALL!



What  
should  
I do?!

Uh...

Umm...

She really  
hit her head  
pretty hard.

What did  
I do?









*A Crucial Experience Chapter 13*





Once the fall semester starts, there will be more and more posters.



Until the festival, we'll have to spend lots of time promoting our play.

We're counting on you.



But... it's... my...

I feel like I'm going to die!

Mugi, do you plan on standing there and covering that until the festival?



You'll be a celebrity! Come on, let's keep going!

But tons of them... all over school... of me...!

Wait up!



Even so, it's too late to make changes to the posters.

I think it's a good picture...

One day. One event. Fate changed forever.  
These are the Petals of Life... So precious.

運命を変えた、あの日の出来事  
それは、大切な人生のひとつ

I can't  
take  
this!

Date: October 10 / Place: Auditorium  
Doors open: 1:00PM / Show starts: 1:30PM

Theater Research Group presents

Hitohira  
ひとひら

Ah,  
thanks  
you guys.

We  
finished  
hanging  
up the  
posters.

KA-  
CHAK

!!  
チャ

Theater Group



We've got  
a little  
problem  
with  
costumes.

What's up?  
Why so  
tense?



If you hadn't  
bet our  
funding,  
we wouldn't  
be in this  
mess!

So, I'm  
thinking  
where we  
can cut  
corners.



The funds  
we've raised  
so far aren't  
enough to  
cover our  
expenses.

None of  
us have  
time to  
get a job.



I'll give  
this back  
to you.

I'VE BEEN  
HOLDING  
ON TO IT.

ACTUALLY  
...

THE  
FUNDING,  
HUH?



I've been keeping it on principle.

But you guys would be in trouble without it, right?

Is this... our funding?



I don't know when, or how, to tell Nono.

wait until the timing is right.

if I gave it back directly to Nono, she probably wouldn't take it.

Well... Yes, but...



if you need black fabric, I think we have some.

Umm ...

Should I say that I was secretly working part-time or something?





TREMBLE

Please use this!

Umm...

Here...

TREMBLE









What do you mean the curtain's missing?

I looked everywhere.

It's a big one, though.

大きいのほ  
あんなった

We probably forgot to put it away the last time we used it.

Did you check the whole storage room?

Pr...stle Inventory  
- Bottles, quantity 4  
- Katana



There are other things—

Still, if it's gone, it's gone.

Mirei, do you have a second?



I could have sworn we did.

I HAVE  
TO  
SAY...

Roger  
that!

We still have  
some funding  
left over,  
so make a  
purchase order  
and show it to  
me later.

It  
can't  
be  
helped.

Thank  
you,  
President  
Mirei!

SOMETHING  
DOESN'T  
ADD UP.

Thanks  
for your  
hard  
work.

Well,  
that's  
all for  
today.

Hm...

That's  
true...

Hey!  
Let's eat  
snow  
cones!

Bye  
bye!

I'd like to  
change the  
prologue's  
music to  
this piece.

Mirei.

か  
CHATTER





TEN MINUTES  
LATER...





COULD  
IT BE...

...THE REASON  
OUR PROPS ARE  
DISAPPEARING  
IS...

ア...  
GRAB



ざわっ...  
RUSTLE

Wait a  
minute.  
If the  
door was  
unlocked...

And  
assuming  
Sadashi's  
not dumb  
enough to  
leave it  
open...



Why the  
heck  
would  
you  
call *my*  
name?!

Nono!  
Come  
out!

JUMP

Besides,  
I brought  
this back.

I will  
neither  
deny nor  
confirm  
the  
allegation.

See?

I got  
lost and  
eventually  
ended up  
in here!

BONK  
BONK  
BONK  
BONK

But I  
was  
right.

Stop it!

Coinci-  
dence!

Nobody gets  
lost inside  
the school!

Strange  
that our  
props  
have been  
going  
missing.

It was  
you guys  
all along.

You know  
I would  
never accept  
anything from  
you or your  
group.

Why  
are you  
giving  
me that  
look?

YOU PROBABLY  
また盗ろうと  
CAME TO STEAL  
してたんじゃないの?  
SOMETHING ELSE?  
ないの?

GRRRR









This  
sucks.

Hey,  
that's  
*my* line.

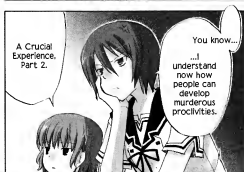
Ow,  
my  
butt!

well,  
I did what  
I came  
to do...  
I'm outta  
here.

Good,  
please  
go.

CLANK















木野信二  
一年 脚本

SHINJI KINO  
- FRESHMAN  
- SCREENPLAY

山口実  
二年 照明チーフ

MITSU  
YAMAGUCHI  
- SOPHOMORE,  
- LIGHTING  
TECHNICIAN

和久井貞浩  
二年 舞台監督

SADASHI WAKUI  
- SOPHOMORE,  
STAGE DIRECTOR

川崎 陽子  
二年 音楽チーフ

HIBIKI KAWASAKI  
- FRESHMAN,  
MUSIC DIRECTOR

Two People In Storage Chapter 14





*I think I lost my voice.*

WHY CAN'T SHE...



...SHOW EMOTION,  
EVEN WHEN SHE TELLS ME THIS?



All wrapped up. ♪. ♪. ♪.



No,  
just do  
it Mugi!

Maybe  
Mirei has  
already  
gone  
home...

GLUP

TREMBLE

Theater G

But I can't  
just sit here  
wondering  
and worrying  
about it  
forever.

DEPRESSED

Uh...

Ahhh!

FALL

SLIDE

Do it!

HANG IN  
THERE,  
ME!

GO

Who  
are  
you?

Do you  
have  
business  
here?

THUD

Uh... Hi...  
I'm Mugi  
Asai...

From the  
Theatre  
Research  
Group!

FRAZZLED

かああああ









Don't  
say such  
a stupid  
thing!

SLAP

Please stop crying.  
After all, it's not  
your place to cry  
over this.



I was the  
one who  
convinced  
you to join  
theater!

It's my  
fault!



RUSTLE

THE WAY  
WE MET,  
WAS SO  
SIMPLE...



Please stop crying.  
After all, it's not  
your place to cry  
over this.

And now  
your voice is  
gone.

I  
shouldn't  
have  
forced  
you!



Not my  
place...

...to  
cry over  
this?!

FLUTTER ..



WE MET  
THE SAME  
WAY MOST  
PEOPLE DO.

THE SEAT  
NEXT TO MINE,  
IN THE SAME  
CLASS...

Hi, I'm  
Mirei.  
What's your  
name?



Nice to  
meet  
you,  
Nono!

N-  
Nono.



If only  
our seats  
hadn't  
been next  
to each  
other...



I'm not  
that good at  
conversing with people.

I don't see  
you talking  
with other  
people that  
often.

Just won-  
dering,  
that's all.

Nono,  
are you  
having a  
hard time  
making  
friends?



You can  
become a  
different  
"you" and  
have fun,  
too.

Then, why  
don't you  
try doing  
theater  
with me?



Why  
do you  
ask?



I am glad  
that inviting  
you did that  
much for  
you.

I shouldn't  
have  
meddled in  
your life  
like that.

I was  
happy  
seeing you  
laugh and  
enjoy life  
more.

But  
still...



And why  
are  
you all  
wet?

Huh?

What's  
this?!

As you  
can see,  
I'm  
quitting.



I'm not  
coming  
back.

Hey Nono,  
you know  
you can  
always come  
back any  
time.

So please  
rejoin the  
group after  
you get  
better.



Uh,  
OK.

I under-  
stand....  
Here, let  
me get  
you a  
towel.



And even  
if you  
disagree...

I can't  
just wait  
for the  
day I'll be  
better.

My time in  
high school  
is already  
half over.



I wondered  
why you  
acted so  
selfishly.

That made  
me really  
upset back  
then.

ZOOM



ZOOM

Your health  
was at stake,  
and I couldn't  
understand why  
you had to be  
so belligerent.

ZOOM



I wonder if  
Mirei went  
home  
already.

I'm  
going  
to...

...form  
my  
own  
group.



What's wrong with worrying about that?

But you have only one body in this life.



Why?!

It's just a club!  
For only three years, right?



If I take that into consideration...



WHAT?

...I don't feel bad about saying you should quit.



GROUP  
THEATER

I wonder if she's in there.





POP

まゆ

Do you even remember all the people you've pushed away?



But, how can they be friends with a person like you?

Risaki and Takashi? They seem pretty nice.

SQUEAK

まゆ...

I still have friends...



まゆ...

SQUEAK

まゆ...

SQUEAK

You're selfish and illogical...

Cold-hearted and stone-faced...

SQUEAK

まゆ



SERIOUSLY

...

I CAN GO  
ON AND ON.

Wha-?!

YOU...  
are so...

THERE'S  
NOTHING  
GOOD  
ABOUT  
HER.

Then,  
you aren't  
my friend...

...THERE'S  
ONE GOOD  
THING  
ABOUT HER.

**My friend:  
Mirei Sakaki**

CERTAINLY...

If you  
can't  
under-  
stand...

...how  
much I care  
about you.

Stupid  
...

SLUMP



MIREI  
WAS ONLY  
THINKING  
OF NONO'S  
HEALTH WHEN  
SHE ASKED  
HER TO QUIT.

AND NONO  
PROBABLY WANTED  
TO CONTINUE  
THEATER BECAUSE  
IT WAS HER  
CONNECTION  
WITH MIREI.



I QUIETLY  
EAVES-  
DROPPED.



It would  
be bad if I  
interrupted  
now.

EVEN THOUGH  
THEY'RE  
LOOKING IN  
EACH OTHER'S  
DIRECTION...

...THEY  
STILL CAN'T  
SEE EYE  
TO EYE.







Good morning.

NONO GOT  
HER VOICE  
BACK...



STUNNED

Good...

...ing...

...morn...



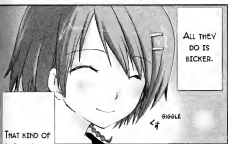
I went to  
bed early  
and got  
better.

Don't mess  
with me!  
Do you  
really have  
Vocal Cord  
Paralysis?!

W-What  
the hell?!  
You look  
just fine!

SHAKE

SHAKE



ALL THEY  
DO IS  
BICKER.

THAT KIND OF  
FRIENDSHIP IS  
WONDERFUL,  
TOO.

What's  
so funny,  
Mugi?

Shut  
up!

Hm?

...AND  
THINGS  
RETURNED  
TO NORMAL.

Hey,  
you *could*  
be a little  
happier,  
after all your  
hysterics  
yesterday.



Oh,  
I was just  
thinking...

...about  
how glad I  
am that I  
joined this  
group.



...BUT I  
WANNA PUT  
ON A GREAT  
SHOW, ONE  
WE'LL NEVER  
FORGET.

I'M STILL  
PRETTY  
ANXIOUS...



Oh, yeah...  
about the  
funding!

FOR  
NONO...  
AND FOR  
MYSELF  
...

IT'S GONNA  
BE AN  
INTERESTING  
FESTIVAL!

GRRR

GRRR

GRRR

GRRR

GRRR

GRRR

GRRR

GRRR

GRRR

GRRR

GRRR

GRRR

GRRR

GRRR

It's  
hers!

Chapter 14 ➦ End





*You Are Not Alone Chapter 15*



Hear ye!  
Hear ye!  
Your attention please!

I am proud to announce Kumataka Art Academy Cultural Festival's main event!



Anyone can do it!

Attention hog!





OOH...

And the  
ones who'll  
decide their  
fates are...  
...you!

AHHH...

Hm!

So  
dramatic!



If you like  
what you  
see, put  
this ball in  
their box,  
and  
that's it!

It's that  
simple!



A competition  
of survival  
between the  
two theater  
groups!

Here begins  
a battle of  
both subtle  
eloquence  
and burning  
passion!





It was her idea! だってさ

Maid Cafes are in fashion lately! We gotta follow the trends, you know!

We're young and *fresh* right now! We look super hot!

LET'S DRIVE 'EM BONKERS!







AFTER  
TODAY...  
...  
EVERYTHING  
WILL BE FINE.

Would you  
like to  
come in?

Please  
come in  
and relax  
with us.

Maid  
Cafe,  
open for  
business!

Let's  
Hey!  
go to  
that  
candy  
shop!



Thank  
you.

Um...

Oh, a maid!  
How  
cute!  
♡

Kyo,  
you're  
such a  
perv!



Get your  
hands off  
that bimbo  
right this  
instant!  
I'm going  
to smack  
you if you  
don't!

You dirty  
dog!

Uh...

Um...

Uh...

There's nothing  
perverted about  
liking maids who  
fulfill the wishes  
of men!

Right,  
baby?

1-1  
MAID C  
OPEN F  
BUSINESS

What do you think you're doing?!

Hey!

BAM

Huh?!

PULL

Maids are what men's dreams are made of, wouldn't you agree?

Oh, nice timing dude! You tell them too!

Not the face!

SLAP!

What's their deal?

Really? You're so sweet!

You're so cute when you're angry!

I just wanted to make you a little jealous!

Baby, honey! Wait!

Kyo, you perverted horny toad! I hate you!

I'd rather not know.

LOVEY-DOVEY

STEAM

STEAM





Nono,  
what's  
going  
on?!

ハ  
ハ  
ハ  
CLOMP

I mean,  
why  
are you  
wearing  
it now?!

Didn't I  
tell you  
that  
already?

My class  
is doing a  
Costume  
Dango Shop.

So, like...  
what's  
the  
outfit  
for?

Want  
one?

何だ  
か  
モテ  
モテ  
It's...  
kind of  
cute...











Will  
I...

...BE ABLE  
TO STAND  
WHERE  
MIRI IS  
NOW?













I know  
that,  
but...

But...



Come on, Kai.  
Don't screw this one up!

And,  
um...

I'll be  
th-there,  
too!

Kai...



But...  
if you give  
up now and  
run away...

You'll  
regret this  
half-year  
you wasted  
preparing.

Because,  
not only  
the bad  
moments...



It'll be easy.  
Once you're  
out there, the  
time will pass  
by in a flash.  
Just go out  
there.

You  
don't  
have to  
run away  
anymore.



...will become  
terrible  
memories that  
you won't  
ever want to  
recall again.

...but  
the fun  
moments  
also...



I DID THINGS  
THAT I NEVER  
IMAGINED I  
WOULD, OR  
COULD, DO.

SO MUCH HAS  
HAPPENED  
OVER THESE  
LAST SIX  
MONTHS.



UNTIL I  
JOINED  
THEATER...

When you  
honestly know  
that you did  
your very  
best...



AND THEN  
I REALIZED  
SOMETHING.

Mugi...



...you'll  
come to  
think fondly  
even of the  
tough times.

...I HAD  
NEVER REALLY  
TRIED TO DO  
ANYTHING WITH  
ALL MY HEART  
BEFORE.



Meow!



That's not  
just the  
magic of  
theater...  
...but the  
magic  
of life.





...SLIP AWAY  
FROM ME.

BUT I CANNOT  
LET THIS  
MOMENT...



# MY FRIEND'S FAVORITE



# HITOHIRA IN FOUR MOVEMENTS



## ON EXPRESSING FEELINGS



## LET'S TALK ABOUT PERSONALITY



I'm not  
dummy!

Hey you!

766777...

## KEEPING IT REAL

